

## **2009 Legislation updates:**

In the recently concluded 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature, there were 2 bills involving changes that directly touch on the Medical Malpractice Act.

Act No 14 – added nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist to the definition of a health care provider. Nurses have always been included in the definition; however, it was felt the advanced nurses needed to be added.

Act No. 231 – allows for immunity for health care providers and health care personnel who render services during a declared state of emergency. There is an exception for damages caused by gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.

The PCFOB's budget for fiscal year 2009-1010 is contained in Act No 40. The budget for administrative expenses is \$3,981,919 and the budget for the payment of claims and defense expenses associated with the claims is \$120,000,000.